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Rules and Procedures
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USNRC

October 14, 2002

Martin J. Virgilio
Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Two White Flint North
11545 Rockville Pike, Room 8-D43, Mailstop 8-A23
Rockville, MD 20852

10/2/02

67 FR 61932

(12)

Re: Request for extension of comment period on LES "white papers"

Dear Mr. Virgilio:

Public Citizen requests that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission extend the public comment period allowed in response to the "white papers" issued by Louisiana Energy Services (LES), which address licensing issues for a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility that LES would like to locate in Hartsville, Tennessee.

The announced 30-day comment period is inadequate, given the breadth of issues dealt with in the white papers, the time required to access these documents for those without high-speed computers, the level of controversy surrounding this proposal, and LES's tarnished history of public relations. For any meaningful public participation to be possible, it is absolutely necessary that the NRC extend the comment period on these memoranda.

The LES white papers raise many concerns related to the process of licensing the proposed uranium enrichment facility. In order that the public—stakeholders in the licensing process—may have reasonable opportunity to comment on these issues, we request that the public comment period be extended from 30 to at least 90 days from the date on which the notice appeared in the Federal Register (October 2, 2002).

Public Citizen is a national, non-profit public interest organization that monitors nuclear energy issues. We are supported by 150,000 members across the country and work closely with local, regional, and national citizens' groups on issues of energy policy. We hope that you will honor our request.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Malherek
Policy Analyst
Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy and Environment Program

✓ CC: Mr. Michael Lesar

Memphis = ADM-013

Ralph Nader, Founder

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E-REDS = ADM-03
Cdd = T. Johnson (TJS)